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Alleged grievances of the employees of the ex-Vizagapatam Agency District Board.

* 75 Q.—SRI P. VIRABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memorial from the President of the District Andhra Association, Koraput, on behalf of the employees of the ex-Vizagapatam Agency District Board and also a letter from the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Council of Vizagapatam district on the subject; and

(b) if so, what action have the Government taken on it?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The Government have communicated a list of the employees of the Agency District Board to the presidents of the district boards in the Telugu areas of this Province with a suggestion that due consideration may be given to the appointment of these persons in vacancies that may arise in future, in preference to fresh entrants."

Difficulties, if any, in the collection of land revenue, consequent on the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act.

* 76 Q.—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there have been greater difficulties than before in the collection of land revenue since the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938; and

(b) whether the percentage of arrears of land revenue in the last fasli is larger than that for the two previous fasli years?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Excluding the amounts the collection of which has been suspended or postponed, the percentage of arrears to the demand for fasli 1347 shows a slight increase (·16 per cent) over the corresponding figure of the previous fasli and a slight decrease (·10 per cent) over the corresponding figure for fasli 1345."

Difficulties, if any, of agriculturists in raising credits, consequent on the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act.

* 77 Q.—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether the difficulties of agriculturists in regard to raising credits for agricultural purposes from private money-lenders have increased since the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938?

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THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Government have received reports which show different conditions in different districts. There have been complaints about difficulty in getting private money-lenders to lend money to agriculturists as well as that evasions are being resorted to in respect of entries in documents about rate of interest."

Credit facilities availed of by agriculturists from co-operative societies since the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act.

*78 Q.—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether, since the passing of the Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, agriculturists have availed themselves of the credit facilities offered by the co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, whether the co-operative credit societies have been able to meet the growing demand on them?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"(a) The following figures indicate that agriculturists have availed themselves to a greater extent than before of the credit facilities offered by co-operative societies. Agricultural credit societies issued loans to the extent of Rs. 110·97 lakhs in 1937–38 as against Rs. 96·17 lakhs in 1936–37 and sale societies issued loans to the extent of Rs. 62·12 lakhs in 1937–38 as against Rs. 26·16 lakhs in 1936–37. From the date of the passing of the Act to 31st July 1938 central banks issued loans to the extent of Rs. 47·08 lakhs to agricultural credit societies and Rs. 29·64 lakhs to sale societies as against Rs. 36·40 lakhs and Rs. 13·14 lakhs respectively during the corresponding period of the previous year.

"(b) Yes."

Steps, if any, for affording debt relief among agricultural labourers.

*79 Q.—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether any steps are under contemplation for relieving the burden of debt among the padiyals or panniyals and other agricultural labourers in the Presidency?

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The matter is under consideration."